

A2 - Yet another object of the present invention is to provide very simple and quick method for making the modular covering element. }

Rewrite the paragraph which begins at page 6, line 8, as follows:

A3 - On the bottom face of the central layer 1 is provided a bottom or lower layer 3, made of a fabric material suitable to hold a male portion of a tearing or tearable strip, such as a Velcro® strip, which is commercially well known. }

Rewrite the paragraph which begins at page 7, line 3, as follows:

A4 - If the modular element must be used for coating walls or for permanent application, then on the Velcro® strip a bi-adhesive layer could be provided. }

#### IN THE CLAIMS

✓  
Cancel claims 1 to 9 and add the following new claims 10 to 14.

A5 10. (new) A modular laminate coating element for coating floors and walls, comprising a thermoformable central layer having an exposed face on which a woven or non-woven material top layer is arranged, said central layer having another face thereof on which a bottom layer of a material suitable for coupling with a tearing strip means is arranged, said top, central and bottom layers being hot coupled to one another to provide an integral laminate construction.

11. (new) A modular laminate coating element according to Claim 10, wherein said central layer comprises a closed cell foamed polyethylene layer coupled by a thermoforming process to said top and bottom layers.